

From: Acerbo Bachmann, Kathryn [mailto:KAcerboBachmann@trinitychurchboston.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 11:31 AM
To: Roland Bartl
Subject: FW: [MassHistPres] Are there any successful 'demolition by neglect' bylaws?

Hi Roland,

The HDC has discussed a Demolition-by-Neglect ordinance for several years. This is Worcester's solution - a "Nuisance Ordinance"- New Bedford, Framingham and other have similar nuisance ordinances. Those ordinances are citywide- we could consider limiting them just to the districts for now. I sent this to Frank and would also appreciate you taking a look at the link below sometime in the next few weeks. It would also be great to get on the Planning Board agenda for July or August to discuss.

Best wishes,

Kathy

From: masshistpres-bounces@cs.umb.edu [mailto:masshistpres-bounces@cs.umb.edu] On Behalf Of S Ceccacci@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 7:02 AM
To: dbibel@verizon.net; masshistpres@cs.umb.edu
Subject: Re: [MassHistPres] Are there any successful 'demolition by neglect' bylaws?

The City of Worcester has a "nuisance" ordinance, which works as a demolition by neglect ordinance. Including daily fines, it was used successfully in a case of a building included on Preservation Worcester's Most Endangered List a couple of years ago. The owner decided to sell rather than to repair the building, which has since been restored and sold to a new owner.

You may read the ordinance on this link:

<http://www.worcesterma.gov/uploads/be/6e/be6ec0e1b2459ab1cd0597c562386186/nuisance-ordinance.pdf>

Susan McDaniel Ceccacci
Architectural Historian
Jefferson, Massachusetts

In a message dated 6/1/2011 6:36:48 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, dbibel@verizon.net writes:
Here's the situation: A private school moved into town. They have done some good things to their property, but one of the buildings they own, the Jacob Cushman house, has been neglected and is in poor shape. The Historical Commission has contacted the school, sent letters, met with one of their Trustees - all in an effort to explain the historical significance of the building. We've suggested some low cost options to reduce continued damage (cut down the vines creeping up the walls, properly seal the damaged windows) to no apparent effect.

Some members of our Commission have suggested writing to the various members of their Board of Trustees; others have suggested informational pickets; and one has suggested the development of a 'demolition by neglect' bylaw.

(I should mention that the school successfully restored an adjacent property - the William Chenery House, also an historic building, and has rented it out. We congratulated the school for their adaptive reuse in this case)

I wonder if there have been successful demo by neglect bylaws or statutes -- a concern that has been raised is dealing with property owners who neglect their property due to financial hardship (the school in question here does plead hardship, although it is not apparent from their buildings and grounds).

Any examples or case studies (pro or con) would be greatly appreciated.

Daniel Bibel
Co-chair
Medfield Historical Commission

For administrative questions regarding this list, please contact Christopher.Skelly@state.ma.us directly. PLEASE DO NOT "REPLY" TO THE WHOLE LIST.

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